

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: NAGAO

APPROVED BY S/S-O: WRIGHT

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S E C R E T STATE 210449

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ASAD GOVERNMENT IN PRECARIOUS POSITION

THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA INFORMED EMBASSY AMMAN THAT THE SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE WAS DELAYED BY PRESIDENT ASAD'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. HE SAID ONLY ASAD AND HIGHER SYRIAN COMMAND OFFICERS DESIRED THE CEASE-FIRE, WHILE THE FEDAYEEN AND IRAQIS TRIED TO PREVENT THE SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE. THE PRESENCE OF MASSIVE IRAQI FORCES IN SYRIA IS VIEWED AS DANGEROUS FOR ASAD. MOREOVER, THE FEDAYEEN HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH THE IRAQIS. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES A POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR ASAD WOULD BE FOR THE JORDANIAN ARMY TO MOVE INTO SYRIA AS A COUNTER-BALANCE TO THE IRAQIS. (SECRET) AMMAN 5675, 10/24.

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2. FRANCE TORPEDOES EC NINE'S MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS

QUAI MIDDLE EAST DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROUILLON TOLD EMBASSY PARIS THAT FRANCE HAD TORPEDOED THE EC NINE'S ATTEMPTS TO REACH A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN LONDON

OCTOBER 22. WHILE STRESSING THE SINCERITY OF FRENCH SUPPORT FOR UNSC RESOLUTION 338, ROUILLON SAID FRANCE CONSIDERED IT DEMEANING FOR WESTERN EUROPE TO "PRONOUNCE BENEDICTION" OVER THIS RESOLUTION. HE CONCEDED THAT FRANCE, HOLDING TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EC NINE MUST NEVER STOOP TO RUBBER STAMPING THE WORK OF THE TWO SUPER POWERS, STOOD ALONE AGAINST A CONCERTED EFFORT OF THE OTHER EIGHT TO PRODUCE AN ENDORSEMENT STATEMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 27603, 10/24 (LIMDIS).

3. THAILAND TO INITIATE NEW FOREIGN POLICY?

BANGKOK POST REPORTED OCTOBER 23 THAT THAILAND'S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN BEFORE AND WILL EMPHASIZE "NATIONAL INTERESTS" INSTEAD OF "BENDING WITH THE FREE WORLD." THE PAPER CITED UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES AS SAYING THAILAND WILL BEFRIEND ALL NON-HOSTILE COUNTRIES, REMAIN ACTIVE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ULTIMATE NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE POST REPRESENTED THIS AS A PRECIS OF A FULL-DRESS FOREIGN POLICY DECLARATION SCHEDULED FOR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 25. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 16547, 10/24.

4. SADAT'S ACCEPTANCE OF CEASE-FIRE UNPOPULAR IN EGYPT

THE GENERAL REACTION IN EGYPT TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE APPEARS TO BE NEGATIVE, WITH MANY EGYPTIANS CONSUMED WITH DOUBT AND SUSPICION.

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OUR INTERESTS SECTION ADDS THAT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SADAT IS FACED WITH A POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE SITUATION WHICH MAY BE TRANSLATED INTO REAL PRESSURES ON BOTH THE CEASE-FIRE OBSERVANCE AND ON HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 3233, 10/24.

5. GERMAN CHANCELLERY SUFFERS FROM AIMLESS LEADERSHIP

PUBLIC CRITICISM OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S INEFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN LARGELY CONFIRMED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH RELIABLE SOURCES IN AND AROUND THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE. THE CHANCELLERY IS REPORTEDLY POORLY RUN, AND BRANDT IS FEELING EVEN MORE ADRIFT IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING HIM. THIS SEEMINGLY AIMLESS APPROACH

TO LEADERSHIP HAS OFFENDED TOP SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY FIGURES, BUT NO IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION IS FORESEEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 15338, 10/24. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POPULAR RESENTMENT, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE210449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: NAGAO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WRIGHT
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731012/aaaaaijc.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PINT, XX, SY, IZ, FR, XI, XF, TH, EG, GE, EEC, (BRANDT, WILLY), (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: DIRNSA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005